

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lt. Gov. Crouch, Indiana Broadband Office designates the City of South Bend as the state's 75th Broadband Ready Community

INDIANAPOLIS (Dec. 15, 2022) – [Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch](#) and the [Indiana Broadband Office \(IBO\)](#) announced the City of South Bend as the state's 75th Broadband Ready Community. At a press conference Wednesday, Dec. 14, representatives from IBO and the [Indiana Office of Rural Affairs \(OCRA\)](#) celebrated the accomplishment.

The Broadband Ready Communities Program was created as a tool to encourage broadband development throughout Indiana. The Broadband Ready Community certification sends a signal to the telecommunication industry that a community has taken steps to reduce barriers to broadband infrastructure investment.

“We are encouraged that communities across the state are taking the steps to become more connected and enhance their quality of life by becoming Broadband Certified,” Lt. Gov. Crouch said. “Congratulations to South Bend for prioritizing this initiative and working collaboratively to further spearhead your community's broadband investment.”

The certification was approved by the Indiana Broadband Office following the City of South Bend's adoption of a Broadband Ready Community ordinance.

“Broadband is essential for our students, job seekers, businesses and entrepreneurs,” said Mayor James Mueller. “I thank Governor Holcomb's administration and the Indiana Legislature for helping South Bend become a Broadband Ready Community. We look forward to continued collaboration with the state on digital infrastructure and equity programming.”

Earnie Holtrey, Deputy Director at the Indiana Broadband Office, said nearly 15 communities have become Broadband Ready Communities in 2022.

“It's been another aggressive year with communities across the state becoming Broadband Ready,” said Holtrey. “With our 75th community now certified, South Bend has joined a running list of Hoosier cities, towns, counties and regions who are taking notice and investing in themselves. Congratulations!”

Via 2020 legislation, the Broadband Ready Community Program was transitioned from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation ([IEDC](#)) to the Office of Community and Rural Affairs ([OCRA](#)). [IBO](#) began the day-to-day management of the Broadband Ready Community Program on July 1, 2020. For more information, visit in.gov/indianabroadband.

Under the leadership of [Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch](#), who also serves as the Secretary of Rural Development, the Indiana Broadband Office (IBO) mission is to assist residents in need of affordable and reliable broadband connectivity. This mission of reaching Hoosiers where they live, work and play is accomplished by communicating with stakeholders, providing resources to a diverse audience, and leveraging established relationships with elected officials, associations, and providers. For more information, visit in.gov/broadband.